Reduction in the price of Aspirin

629. SHRI DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the circumstances under which the price of Aspirin was fixed at Rs. 80 per kg. and on what basis it has been reduced to Rs. 71 per kg.;

(b) whether it is a fact that the responsibility for this lapse has not been fixed; and

(c) what are the names of the persons involved in this affair?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c) The price of Aspirin was revised to Rs. 80/- per kg. on 'ad-hoc' basis w.e.f. 2.6.1988 consequent on the representations received from the manufacturers of this drug. However, the cost price study of this drug was simultaneously taken up by the BICP and a price of Rs. 71/- per kg. has been fixed w.e.f. 20.1.1989 on their recommendations.

Price control on bulk drugs

630. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the bulk drugs having sales turnover of more than Rs. 50 lakhs during 1986 have not been included in Category-II;

(b) if so, what was the turnover of Amiloride, Amitrypline, Diphenoxylate and Glybenclamide;

(c) whether it is a fact that 80 to 95 per cent of the market of these drugs is controlled by one or two companies;

(d) if so, on what basis Diphenoxylate has been retained in price control whereas the other three drugs have been price decontrolled; and

(e) what is the criteria adopted in each case?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (e) The recent deletion of certain drugs from Price Control under DPCO, 1987 has been done in pursuance of the recommendations of the Kelkar Committee contained in its Supplementary Report.

Increase in the production of drugs

631. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the article DPCO impact favourable which appeared in the Economic Times' of 27th January, 1989;

(b) if so, what are the 28 drugs for which favourable production in 1988 as compared to 1987 was noticed;

(c) what was the actual production of these drugs during the last three years, yearwise;

(d) whether there is any price controlled bulk drugs for which decline in production in 1987-88 as compared to 1986-87 was noticed and what was the actual production of each; and

(e) what are the reasons for such decline?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Details will be compiled and placed on the Table of the House.

Development of Telecommunication Net work with French Collaboration

632. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering proposals for further tie-up with France in the Development of Telecommunication network in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the expected impact on the current developmental plans?